

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JAMES E. CARTWRIGHT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to GEN James E. Cartwright, who is retiring after 40 years of accomplished military service. Since becoming the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on August 4, 2007, General "Hoss" Cartwright has testified numerous times and provided expert testimony, leadership, and advice to Congress, the President, and the American people regarding our Nation's security and the future of our Armed Forces.

General Cartwright hails from Rockford, IL. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1971 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps shortly thereafter. The general served as a naval flight officer in the F-4 and as a pilot in the F-4, OA-4 and the F-18. His flying career culminated with command of the First Marine Aircraft Wing in Okinawa, Japan. The general is also a distinguished graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and earned his master of arts in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College.

After an assignment as the Director for Force Structure, Resources and Assessment, J-8, on the Joint Staff, then-Lieutenant General Cartwright was selected for promotion to general and became the first Marine Corps officer to lead U.S. Strategic Command. While at STRATCOM, General Cartwright led the development of strategies during a rapidly evolving national security environment, particularly in the areas of cyber, space, nuclear proliferation, and missile defense. He reorganized the command to increase interagency cooperation and streamlined operations. As a result of the changes the general implemented at STRATCOM, the effectiveness of the command for the deployed warfighter increased substantially to meet the new challenges of the 21st century.

During the last 4 years, General Cartwright has served as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. One of his top priorities has been to reduce the loss of American lives in combat by leveraging technology and streamlining acquisition processes to quickly give new capabilities to the battlefield. His efforts to lead the MRAP program resulted in a 50 percent decrease in deaths attributed to improvised explosive device attacks.

The general can take pride in many other notable accomplishments, including the integration of technologies that enabled the destruction of a failing satellite by a missile for the first time and the successful raid against Osama bin Laden.

During his service, General Cartwright took every opportunity to recognize the efforts and sacrifice of the 2.4 million active, guard and reserve members of the Armed Forces and their families. He remains actively engaged for the benefit of our wounded

warriors and always remembers the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice on our battlefields. General Cartwright will be remembered for his strategic intellect and his ability to drive innovative change. His tenure leaves a lasting legacy to the Armed Forces. I appreciate his extraordinary service to our country and wish him all the best in the next chapter of his life.

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, as we celebrate the U.S. Navy's centennial of aviation, I would like to personally recognize the exceptional contributions of the men and women, past and present, who have served at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

From the base's commissioning day on September 21, 1942, to the present, it has been the mission-ready men and women of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island who have protected the skies of the Pacific Northwest and projected power throughout the world.

A long tradition of excellence began on Whidbey Island during World War II when it was named Ault Field, in memory of Commander William B. Ault who was missing in action following the Battle of the Coral Sea. During the war, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island's patrol planes flew long-range navigation training missions over the North Pacific to protect the Pacific Northwest from the real threat of attack that gripped Alaska and the region. During this period, the earliest squadrons of F4F Wildcats, PV-1 Venturas, F6F Hellcats and SDB Dauntless's, also etched their place in U.S. Navy's distinguished history.

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island continued their legacy of excellence throughout each subsequent conflict. Their patrol planes proved to be paramount to successful operations during the Korean War and their initial deployments to Southeast Asia in 1972. Today, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island remains the premier naval aviation installation in the Pacific Northwest.

Currently the proud home of the EA-6B Prowlers, EA-18G Growlers, P-3 Orions and the EP-3E Aries, I know Naval Air Station Whidbey Island will continue to protect not only the Pacific Northwest, but the whole United States, for the next 100 years.

In recognition of the past century's naval aviation achievements, I would truly like to thank the men and women both in and out of uniform and the veterans of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island for their service and sacrifice.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS E. "JAKE" FISHER

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to a dedi-

cated public servant from my home State of Missouri. Jake Fisher has devoted his professional life to helping others through his work at the University of Missouri Delta Center.

Shortly after graduation from high school, Jake was employed at the University of Missouri Delta Center as a farmworker I. From that position, he was promoted to technician, senior technician, and research specialist. In 1986 he became the assistant superintendent. Three years later, Jake was promoted to Superintendent of the Delta Center and continues to serve in that leadership role today. Next month, Jake will retire after 50 years of dedicated service to agriculture research in Missouri.

Besides his work at the Delta Center, Jake serves on the board of directors for a number of organizations, including Progressive Farm Credit Services of Southeast Missouri, Pemiscot-Dunklin Electric Cooperative, M&A Electrical Cooperative, Associated Electrical Cooperative, and Pemiscot County Port Authority. He is a member of the executive committee of the Research Administrator's Society. Along with his service to these organizations, Jake is a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner.

Due to his selfless efforts, Jake has received numerous awards, including the State Farm Management Award in 1981 by Production Credit Association of Eastern Missouri. He was named "Man of the Year in Service to Agriculture" by the Progressive Farmer Magazine in 1995 and in 1996 was granted honorary membership to the University of Missouri Ag Alumni Association. He was awarded a lifetime membership to the Cotton Producers of Missouri in 1997 and in 2000 received the outstanding staff award by the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. In 2001, Jake was named "Ag Leader of the Year" by Missouri Ag Industries Council. He was honored with the A.C. Burrows Service Award in 2009 by the Association of Missouri Electrical Cooperatives. In 2011, Jake received the Agribusiness Service Award from the Sikeston, MO, Chamber of Commerce. He was awarded the Frank Stork Democracy Award in 2011 by the Missouri Association of Electrical Cooperatives. In 2006, the conventional soybean variety "Jake" was named for Jake Fisher.

Jake is also a loving and devoted husband to his wife of almost 50 years, Shelly, and an outstanding role model for his daughter, Stacey Kersey, and for his grandsons, Gunnar Young and Kasen Kersey.

Thomas E. "Jake" Fisher's career has been built on character, dedication, and service to his fellow Missourians. His accomplishments during his 50 years of loyal service will be felt for generations to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this great Missourian and extending our best wishes as he begins a new chapter in life.●

REMEMBERING DR. DON LINKER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Dr. Donald Linker of Marin County, who passed away on June 16, 2011. Dr. Linker dedicated his personal and professional life to helping others and was passionate about living his life to the fullest.

Donald Linker was born and raised in Louisville, KY. He graduated from the University of Michigan and received his doctor of medicine from the University of Kentucky, School of Medicine.

Don served honorably in the U.S. Navy as a doctor treating marines in Vietnam. After his service, he moved to San Francisco, married, and had three children. He opened his own medical practice and after many years of practicing medicine, returned to school and received his master's in public health from UC Berkeley.

Don Linker was an activist and philanthropist who was committed to bettering his community. He was a founding member of the Foundation for Reed Schools in Tiburon and also served a number of other organizations, including the Jewish Community Federation, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Marin Community Federation, the Bernard Osher Foundation, and the Buck Center for Research and Aging.

Don was an adventurous man with a fiery demeanor and an infectious spirit who loved travel and extreme sports. One of his passions was pushing himself to the limit physically. He loved windsurfing, skiing, and mountain biking, and some of his greatest personal accomplishments involved those activities.

Don was a friend who will be greatly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

I send my heartfelt sympathies to his family, including his son Kevin Linker, daughters Jodi Linker and Dana Linker, son-in-law Richard Steele, brother Stephen Linker and his grandchildren Lauren and Sarah Steele.●

TRIBUTE TO JORDAN BURROUGHS

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the best collegiate wrestler in America, Jordan Burroughs, who is an All-American from my alma mater, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Earlier this year Jordan was awarded the Dan Hodge Trophy, which is often referred to as the "Heisman Trophy of wrestling." This award is named in honor of Dan Hodge, who was undefeated during his 3-year career at the University of Oklahoma. The criteria considered for the Hodge Trophy, according to the University of Nebraska, are the wrestler's record, number of pins, dominance on the mat, past credentials, quality of competition, sportsmanship, and heart.

Wrestling at 165 pounds, Jordan compiled an impressive 36-to-0 record this

last season and captured his second crown from the National Collegiate Athletic Association; his first was in 2009. Despite Nebraska facing one of the toughest schedules in the Nation this year, Jordan had only three matches this season which did not end by pin, tech fall, or a major decision.

Congratulations also go to Nebraska's head wrestling coach, Mark Manning, who recruited Jordan from Winslow Township High School in Sicklerville, NJ, where Jordan was listed as the seventh best high school wrestler in the country. As Coach Manning says, "Winning the Hodge Trophy puts Jordan in an elite group of wrestlers and makes a strong statement about him as an athlete."

Most recently, Jordan Burroughs added to his list of impressive tournament wins by taking home his first senior international wrestling gold medal on July 17, 2011, at the Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers Memorial International in Kiev, Ukraine. There will be other matches between now and next year, but his ultimate goal is to compete at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England.

From the Garden State to the Cornhusker State, Jordan Burroughs makes us all proud as America's best collegiate wrestler of 2011. As a former Husker, he will forever remain in the hearts of Big Red fans everywhere who will continue rooting for him wherever his travels take him.●

TRIBUTE TO PAMELA LYNNE WELLER

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I wish honor Pamela Lynne Weller, legal special assistant to Commissioner Thomas H. Moore at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC. Ms. Weller is retiring after more than 26 years of distinguished Federal Government service.

Pamela was born in Baltimore and has lived in Maryland for most of her life. She graduated with honors from the University of Maryland and received her law degree from Georgetown University.

Pamela began her Federal service during her last year of law school, when she worked for Senator Lawton Chiles on the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409, and later for Senator Richard Stone. For part of that time she actually worked for both Senators simultaneously, for Senator Chiles as part of a law school program and as a salaried employee of Senator Stone. After graduation, she continued working for Senator Stone on a variety of important issues through the end of his term of office.

After leaving Senator Stone, she went to work at the Civil Aeronautics Board, CAB, as an assistant to board member James Smith, as the agency worked through the deregulation of the national air transportation system, and then as it wound down its operations prior to being incorporated into the Department of Transportation.

Following nearly 10 years of continuous government service, Pamela went to work in the private sector, opening her own law practice. She continued in this line of work for over 11 years, specializing in family law and real estate transactions.

In 1995, she went back into the public service to become an assistant to Commissioner Thomas H. Moore at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. During her work for Commissioner Moore, the longest serving Commissioner in the agency's history, she advised him on all agency actions including rulemakings, enforcement actions and administrative matters. Additionally, she served as acting chief of staff during Commissioner Moore's 9-month stint as acting chairman of the agency in 2001 and 2002. She also helped construct his 2007 legislative proposals to Congress, a number of which were incorporated into the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008, Public Law 110-314.

During her notable tenure at CPSC, Ms. Weller has played a significant role in protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury posed by consumer products. On numerous occasions, she has demonstrated inspiring leadership and has always been considered a valued employee at the CPSC.

Mr. President, I am pleased to thank Pamela Lynne Weller for her honorable service to our Nation, and I wish her a rewarding retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13441 WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON—PM 16

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the